

D1  
Cont.

are used in the form of a solution or slurry in an organic solvent such as ethyl acetate, for example.--

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Please replace the first full paragraph on page 7 of the specification with the following paragraph:

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D2

--To prevent the added fibers from increasing the thermal conductivity of materials which are to be used for thermal insulation, the volume fraction of the fibers should be in the range of 0.1-30 wt. %, preferably in the range of 1-10 wt.%, based on dried material. In addition, the thermal conductivity of the fibrous material should be as low as possible, preferably less than 1 W/mK.--

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Please replace the second full paragraph on page 11 of the specification with the following paragraph:

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D3

--An interpenetrating network of silicate and organic networks is present in the gel. It is also possible for the silicate network and the organic network to be bonded to each other by, for example, covalent bonds, hydrogen bridge bonds, or ionic bonds.--

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Please replace the first full paragraph on page 14 of the specification with the following paragraph:

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D4

--Because of their large internal surface area, the aerogels are also useful as adsorbents. They typically have pore sizes in the range of 5-100, preferably of 5-20. They can therefore be used as adsorbents for a wide variety of substances, especially since the target substance can be adsorbed either on the organic

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polymer used or on the silica gel. Because the pores are continuous, the aerogels can also be used as filter materials.--

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Please replace the last paragraph on page 18 of the specification, which continues on page 19 of the specification, with the following paragraph:

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D5

--Free silicic acid was produced from a 7 wt. % sodium silicate solution by the use of an acid ion-exchanger and then adjusted to a pH of 5.7 with dilute 0.1 N sodium hydroxide. 100 mL of this solution was then mixed with 10 mL of a solution of a standard commercial sulfamate-modified melamine resin, i.e., Madurit® MW114 from Cassella AG, which had been diluted to 10 wt. %, and the pH of which had also been adjusted to 5.7 with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid. Thus a sol was formed, which was poured into 6-mm thick tubes. After the sol had been allowed to gel for 6 hours at 85 °C, the tubes were cooled and the gel was removed from the tubes. The water present in the pores of the gel was exchanged with acetone until the concentration of the water in the acetone was less than 1 wt. %. The gel thus obtained was dried in a stream of nitrogen heated to 150 °C and conducted at a rate of 1,000 L/h. The solid density of the dried gel was 0.28 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and its thermal conductivity at room temperature was 47 mW/mK.--

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After page 22 of the specification, please add the following paragraph:

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D6

--Abstract of the Disclosure

Nanoporous interpenetrating organic-inorganic networks are provided. Methods for making and using such nanoporous interpenetrating organic-inorganic networks are also provided.--

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